

THE OMEN



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REHAMPING

PRESENTS



**A DISCUSSION OF GOVERNANCE:
THE ADMISSIONS SATELLITE**

Table of Contents

FOR THE FOURTH ISSUE IN THE 33RD VOLUME OF THE OMEN ON
NOVEMBER THE TENTH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2009.

Table of Contents

Layout & Editing **STAFF**

Alex Wenchel	Leader of the midnight ride
Claire Oberholtzer	Leader of the tea time plunge
Jackie Micheller	Leader of the darktime sitting

To Submit:

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Email your submissions to hampshireomen@gmail.com, or mail them to box 1394.

Volume 34 • Issue 7

May 3rd 2010

EDITORIAL

Community

by Alex Wenchel

I love computers. My Div II and my anticipated Div III are both based on doing things with computers. So it brings me great joy to announce to you all that this issue of the Omen is being produced on a brand spankin' new computer. Let me tell you, this is pretty exciting.

To be quite honest, there are times when I like computers more than people. No computer has ever accused me of being a racist, nor has a computer ever spoiled my afternoon by asserting that the college I attend and am rather fond of is headed into the toilet for one reason or another.

Computers don't reject me. They may cause me great amounts of consternation when I am trying to get them to work properly, but with or without functioning operating systems, desktop environments, or hard drives, computers are always there for me at the end of the day. When I unleash streams of hate and profanity at people, they tend to not enjoy talking to me as much after that, but I can yell at my computers as long as I want and they will sit

there, implacable, unperturbable. When my anger is gone, they still accept me.

Most people seem to find the idea of cuddling with me somewhat upsetting. At least, that's what I would assume, given that whenever I meet someone new and try to cuddle with them, they tend to get all standoffish and move quickly away. Computers, on the other hand, are always ready for a cuddle. I can bring them in bed with me and press my warm body against theirs, listening to the reassuring whir of the CPU fans and the quiet whine of the hard drive spinning down as they fall asleep.

Computers are giving lovers.

Anyway, uh, apart from all of that, this here is another issue of the Omen. It has a lot of goofy stuff in it, and only a few things by David Axel Kurtz. There's some exciting gnome-based contest that Alex dreamed up, and various other adornments and oddities for your reading pleasure. If you submitted recently and your article isn't here, it'll be in the next one, no fear. Everyone else, submit!

Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited,

and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Friday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

The Omen Haiku

Views in the Omen

Do not necessarily

Reflect the staff's views

SECTION LOVE

My name is Morgan Greenstreet, I am third year music concentrator. I am opposed to the proposed admissions project in ASH because, for me, it is emblematic of a larger disconnect between the administration of this school and the people who live and work in this environment: the students, faculty and staff. To improve this school, I believe this administration must:

FOCUS ON IMPROVING OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, RENOVATING OUR SPACES AND HIRING PROFESSORS!!!! NOT SPENDING MONEY ON THE ADMISSIONS CIRCUS!!!!

BY MORGAN GREENSTREET

In short, I find the project to relocate admissions to Adele Simmons Hall to be appalling not only at the spending of \$350,000 on a project with little benefit for the staff, faculty or student body, but at the level of disconnect between our administration and the rest of our school's infrastructure as demonstrated by both the fiscal nature of this project and the under-the-table nature of the project's development.

BY JAMES GLASS

"This is my home". Understand that statement. "This is my home". I am nameless and among many. I eat, sleep, study, love, dance, sing, write, play, act, perform, present, work, cry, create, fail, succeed here. I spend almost every moment awake and asleep here. This institution is designed around me, the student. This place is a school nothing more or less complicated than that. I am a student this is my school, my home, a place built around me to allow me to live a constructive existence. So I ask the question: is this structure around me a prison or a home? It is a prison if it is built without my input, it is a home if I have voice. I am a human and I can choose to be free. So if you supplant a home with

a cell you will find no occupant for either. I am a Hampshire student and this is my home. choose to be free. So if you supplant a home with a cell you will find no occupant for either. I am a Hampshire student and this is my home.

BY SOLOMON ST. JOHN

I give a lot of tours. Sometimes I feel like a used car salesman. Most used carsalesmen have some sort of aesthetic pitch they give prospective buyers thatdistracts them from the more obvious faults of the car (or college as in thiscase). On all my tours for the past two years, the walk from the admissions office to Adele Simmons Hall is that aesthetic distraction.

So why then is the Director of Enrollment planning to move the admissions information and tour to Adele Simmons Hall without any communication of this decision to Admission staff, or the broader Hampshire Community in general. That, I have to say I don't know. I've tried for the past several days to think of the logic behind the move. Nothings happened yet, let me know if you find any insight.

What I do know is that this decision embodies the systemic hierarchical breakdown of Hampshire governance. The complete lack of communication, and deliberate obstruction of this process from the Hampshire community is not just counter-productive, it is a betrayal of trust which warrants serious consequences. I am not asking to have the ASH project scrapped. I am demanding that it be scrapped as the absolute minimal step towards repaired the broken systems of governance at this college. This isn't just about selling the place, it's about having a place I can ethically sell.

BY GABRIEL AGREE

My name is Hazel Wood. I'm a first year at Hampshire College. I was really impressed with the work put forward by the Arch 5 group, and felt that their interpretations of the need for better energy flow in campus spaces was right on point. On Friday, the Arch 5 group informed us of various other projects that are currently on track to be executed this summer. The fact that these projects were passed by the administration without consulting staff, faculty, or trustees concerns me, and also mirrors many of my feelings about the communication or lack thereof between the administrators and the people of this community. Although I have only been here one year, the feeling of disconnect has been extremely prominent in my experience. Perhaps the administration should consider how this feeling of disconnect effects the student body as well as the issues of energy flow in our most important buildings on campus, rather than relying on their "market research." For these reasons, along with many others, I have decided to sign the petition, and encourage anyone reading this to do so as well.

BY HAZEL WOOD

My name is Martha and I'm finishing my first year at Hampshire. Since hearing about the plans to move part of Admissions to ASH at the cost of \$300,000 plus, I have only become more disgusted by the process, intentions and execution.

I have tried to maintain an open mind to the intentions of our administration, but thanks to the work of Rehamping and other activists on campus, I am losing faith in the desire of senior administrators at Hampshire- namely Ralph Hexter, Mark Spiro and Steve Weissler- to understand the student, staff or faculty perspective and make our experience the best it can be. Bringing more students to Hampshire will not solve the financial situation if these students enter into an environment with such pronounced hostilities between the administration and students, staff and faculty.

The hundreds of thousands of dollars Spiro, Hexter and Weissler plan to spend on this project should go to preserve staff and faculty positions

at Hampshire if the administration wishes to hold on to any shred of respect from anyone else on this campus. should go to preserve staff and faculty positions at Hampshire if the administration wishes to hold on to any shred of respect from anyone else on this campus.

BY MARTHA PSKOWSKI

My love affair with Hampshire College started as a prospective student. I found the website, a glorious and easily navigable piece of graphic art at every turn. The stories of Div III's, the divisional system, and the student-to-faculty transparency made me swoon. I was a lover obsessed, secretly saving pamphlets and reading Hampsedia at work. "Finally!" I exhaled, "HERE is what I'm looking for."

In retrospect, I fell in love with colorful advertising and fonts that were easy on the eyes. Upon visiting Hampshire, I was startled by the bleakness of the buildings, the lack of aesthetic landscaping, and the cigarette butts covering every square inch of the quads. It was the people that sold me. Without them, I would be surrounded by marble columns and statues of dead white men. So I accepted Hampshire. The honeymoon was over, and I reconciled.

Since then, I've found beauty in what I once despised. There are quiet places I go to study, like the Airport Lounge. There are the loud places I go to celebrate, like the foosball tables in the RCC or the Tavern. Most sacred, the secret places I've found with friends, the places you sneak to- the reservoir, the fire pit, the hill behind the Yiddish Book Center. I've learned to love this place for what it is.

But I want more. I want the promises I saw in those smiling eyes of brochures to come true. I want the administrators to listen to us- the students, the faculty, and the staff- because we are SMART, damn it. I want to use the budget as well as pre-existing facilities like the Lemelson Center in a fiscally responsible way to make this campus

BETTER. I want prospective students that tour this campus to gasp in delight as they walk over the hill by Admissions, a view worth \$50,000. I want them to see Rehamping's plans for the library not only for their beauty and ingenuity but also for their quintessential example of what a Hampshire student can imagine and achieve. And someday, I want prospective students to see those plans in actuality- the tunnel lounge, the Div II hallway gallery, Mixed Nuts- because those places are full to the brim of US.

I want us to stop advertising Hampshire College so we can BECOME Hampshire College. I love you, but we need to talk.

BY LIZZY DORRELL

As a student, I understand that there must be compromises made in order to simply balance the budget, however, it is beyond irresponsible to change Hampshire's applicant pool to include individuals who are swayed enough by having an information session in a newly redesigned room to apply/enroll. The sorts of students I would like to have in my classes are those who are intelligent enough as consumers to see the rest of campus. A comprehensive walking tour which would make exceedingly obvious the fact that we are desperate enough for applications that we remodeled one of the nicest buildings in hopes that prospective students won't bother to see the rest of the buildings. Combine that with the instruction of the tours guides to refrain from saying all of the true things and suddenly Hampshire has an entirely new identity, albeit a false one.

Also, a college administration should function as a body that ensures the continued existence of the institution, a role which the current administration has apparently decided to vacate. In marketing to a "larger audience" Hampshire is preparing itself to become a more mainstream institution, which isconceptual opposite of its stated purpose and is antithetical to its foundingprinciples. Additionally, a college is worthless without its faculty, staff and

students and it displays a level of dysfunction that is inexcusable and shocking when those three groups are functioning with an exceedingly evident disconnect between themselves as a group and the administration. These actions are not sustainable and I fail to see any way that such top-down structures can exist to the extent that Steve Weisler and Neil Stillings are having secret meetings to approve construction, faculty being given very little voice and students/staff are the last to know about such proposals, without attracting more apathetic students who will, by virtue of their presence, further degrade Hampshire's academic and social structures and climate.

BY AMBER HAGGERTY

What strikes me most about the plans for ASH renovations is the utter lack of respect for faculty, staff, and students on the part of the decision makers (Hexter, Spiro, Weisler), and the deliberate misdirection and miscommunication about the project from the start. We still don't know all the facts. When will they give us the respect we deserve and tell us exactly what the plans are, and who is involved?

If all of this is to increase the appeal of our school for better retention and more applicants, wouldn't it have made sense to ask those who know best about the flaws of Hampshire - the current students and faculty? I went on a tour of Hampshire as a prospective student, I now experience the spaces of Hampshire every day, and I will be considering donating to the school as an alum. I doubt that the people making this decision about the ASH renovations spend much time interacting with Hampshire's community. Have they thought about the effects the renovations will have on current students, teachers, and staff?

Shouldn't Hexter, the so-called "hipster-in-chief," listen to the voice of his students, after they've dedicated so much time and consideration (during FINALS!!) to collaborate with one another

and present an incredibly passionate and thought-out proposal? I think to ignore us or dismiss us, at this point, would be another blatant form of disrespect. My experience of the school matters - for example, I walk through EDH several times a week, I experience the buckets of water leaking through the roof when it rains (do Hexter, Weisler, or Spiro experience that? I bet their offices are nice and dry). Where is the money to renovate that?

I would not have come to Hampshire if I had known how devalued the faculty, staff, and students are to the people who seemingly have the most power on campus. I came to Hampshire because, despite many of the somewhat unappealing buildings, I knew I could get an incredibly strong and unique education with incredibly passionate students and teachers, in a beautiful location in Massachusetts. Let's face it: most of the people who come to Hampshire don't care about how nice the ASH lobby is. They care about the intense spirit and sense of community that exists among the students, faculty, and staff - the high levels of mutual respect!

As an alum, based off of this example that Hexter, Spiro, and Weisler have set, I will not donate to a school that is so autocratic in its decision-making. I will not help fund projects that so intensely go against the key values of Hampshire College - projects that favor opacity and rushed decisions over community collaboration and thoughtful, practical solutions.

And lastly, the walk over the hill from the current admissions building is BEAUTIFUL and INSPIRING and EVERY time I walk over that hill I think how HAPPY I am to be at such a LOVELY and WONDERFUL SCHOOL. I remember that walk as a prospective student - I LOVED IT!!!!!! To see this aspect of the tour go -- in favor of a fancy lobby that I think is hardly exemplary of Hampshire's character -- will be incredibly sad and disappointing. I sincerely hope the administration will remember the passions and interests of the students, staff, and faculty when they think about this issue.

BY REBECCA HANSENS-REED

After attending the amazing rehamp presentation on Friday, I know I do not stand alone when I say that moving admissions to ASH is a terrible mistake. Knowing how Hampshire College is in a vulnerable state financially, it distresses me that hundreds of thousands of dollars will be going into a project which I view as totally unnecessary and unethical for several reasons. For one, as a once-prospective student myself, I can attest that the walk from admissions to campus is one of the most unique and striking parts of visiting the college. It is disheartening that Mark Spiro, the one instigating the project, has only attended two tours and therefore is unaware of this fact.

Another reason that I am passionate about opposing this change is the failure of those who are implementing the project to include the rest of us in such a significant decision. I feel let down by the administration which has been withholding information about this project for months, and that I only became aware of a couple weeks ago when it accidentally leaked. The fact that President Hexter completely failed to discuss the project with the students, staff, and faculty who will be most affected by the change further convinces me that there is a deep disconnect in communication between those on top who are making the decisions for those of who must bear the costs. I still have so many unanswered questions, such as where the money to fund this project is coming from? The possibility that my tuition dollars are being spent on something that is completely at odds with my principles, feeds my conviction that this project must be stopped immediately.

There are many of us who feel betrayed right now, and I strongly urge President Hexter, Steve Weisler and Mark Spiro to acknowledge their oversight of not consulting those they claim to serve, and to halt this project before more damage is done.

BY ALICIA MARIE SMITH-SCHERLISS

I find it absolutely absurd that a huge construction project is supposed to take place over the summer behind our backs. The decision to move part of admissions to ASH was made by a few administrators, without the consultation of students, staff, or faculty. This decision is deeply flawed for numerous reasons, and we have to demand that it be stopped until the plans are made transparent and until there is a chance for community review.

In the Rehamping presentation and discussion on Friday, it became extremely clear that the decision to move admissions to ASH is not supported by the Hampshire community. The lecture hall in FPH was completely packed with people. Many voiced their concerns and shared their thoughts. I heard countless students, as well as faculty and staff, say that they were not aware of nor involved in this decision, and describe the negative affects it will have. I have yet to hear a single person say they think it's a good idea.

Personally, I had no idea that this project was going on, and I was shocked and dismayed when I found out. It is crazy that a decision that will impact many of us is being made without telling us or letting us have a say in it. I actually really enjoyed the walk from admissions to the main part of campus when I took a tour as a prospective student. Seeing the farm center (one of the major reasons I came to this school) and walking across the field, looking out at the mountains, is the only part of the tour I took a few years ago that remains distinct in my mind to this day. I do not think that getting rid of the walk over the hill between admissions and the other part of campus will do anything to alleviate the problems that Hampshire is facing with admissions. Instead, we should focus our energy and money on more worthwhile projects, like implementing the Rehamping designs and re-enlivening spaces on campus to be more receptive to student needs.

This whole thing is symptomatic of a bigger pattern: decisions are made for us without our knowledge, input, or consent. It has been really frustrating

to arrive here as a first year, expecting a supportive administration that would actually be receptive to student concerns. It quickly became clear that that was an illusion. Instead, I have been extremely disappointed in the lack of information and transparency, as well as the lack of functional student governance.

This absence of communication between the administration and students, faculty, and staff, is glaring. WE were all prospective students at one point, and we are Hampshire College's best resource in terms of coming up with creative solutions to the problems we face. I have heard many students put forth brilliant and innovative ideas. Why doesn't the administration care about what we think? Why isn't there a mechanism for community review of projects that will affect us all? Why don't student, staff, and faculty voices matter? If the administration wants to build trust with its constituents, halting the ASH construction project until it goes through a process of community review, as well as supporting the redesigning of the dead spaces on our campus according to Rehamping's proposals, are great places to start.

BY ZEMORA TEVAH

Aside from the fact that the ASH project is a waste of money, the walk from the red barn to the rest of campus is one of the more scenic routes we've got in our little concrete bubble. Hampshire's got a pretty tiny campus to begin with and the walk ain't that bad. They'd be better off moving health services a little closer to student housing, at least it would be practical.

BY HANNAH HODSON

This idea for creating an admissions satellite in ASH is ridiculous. The only benefit for placing admissions closer to campus is to make the tour walk shorter, but there should be different priorities here. Instead, by spending that money on the millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, it would not only

make the tour more enjoyable but also benefit the entire campus. And if those in charge bothered to ask anyone who works in admissions, they would quickly realize the logistical problems that would arise from such a split. In short: 1) Splitting admissions across campus is a plain bad idea. 2) The money that is going to be spent on this project will best be spent on other required projects. 3) The complete lack of communication to the community, especially to those directly affected, is quite disturbing.

BY ISAAC BRUSS

I was an exchange student (from France) at Hampshire last year. It was definitely the best academic experience I've ever had. I also made some of my closest friends here - which, as you may have guessed, is why I'm visiting right now. Because several of these friends are closely involved with the Rehamping project, I went to the information reunion on Friday, April 30, in the West Lecture Hall. This is a short reaction to what I saw and learned there, from my own particular perspective.

First of all, I was struck by how creative and stimulating the Rehamping project is. It confirms, for me, the fact that Hampshire's biggest resource is its unique student body. I know of no other place where a project like that could take such inspiring dimensions. Really, I hope you can give Rehamping the attention it deserves, because it makes TOTAL sense. Several times I've talked about Hampshire with potential exchange students from Sciences Po, my home school in Paris, and each time they expressed reserve about the looks of Hampshire buildings. The intelligent, even brilliant plans laid out on Friday by the Rehamping crew would provide these buildings with an affordable, student-designed facelift that would have tremendous appeal for potential exchange students - as, I'm sure, for all prospective students.

Secondly, during the Rehamping meeting, I learned about your project to install a satellite of Admissions in ASH. Concerning the justification of such a project, I can only say that my own experience of walking over the hill to and from Admissions in my first days on campus was absolutely wonderful, and that ALL of the people present during the Friday night meeting - tour guides, Admissions staff, students - agreed that the move into ASH was completely unnecessary (especially given its cost and the college's financial situation!). But what was most shocking to me was the unanimous sentiment that the decision about the ASH project had been taken in literal secrecy, with ALL of the Hampshire community having been purposefully kept in the dark.

This situation is shocking because it goes against everything that Hampshire stands for. When I first looked into this college for my year abroad, it was presented to me as a place of democracy and extraordinary student involvement in school development. Coming from a university in which students have virtually no say in administrative or even academic decisions, I was truly impressed by Hampshire's efforts to break down the hierarchies between students, staff and faculty; the community that such efforts still succeed in creating is like no other I've experienced.

So you'll understand why the ASH project is so alarming to me and to my friends here. Hampshire's community and ideals are WAY too precious to sacrifice for something so ridiculous. Mark Capello's presence at the meeting on Friday night was truly wonderful (again, I don't know of any other college where members of the administration would attend a student meeting like that), but still wholly insufficient. YOU need to speak to the community. YOU need to defend this project, if you really think it is defendable. YOU need to make future decisions like the ASH project transparent. Personally, I think that's really what Hampshire's future depends on.

BY FABIEN CANTE

The decision to create an offshoot of admissions in the Adele Simmons Hall comes from unannounced and unrepresented decisions which effect the whole of this community. The movement against this project, which has gained immense support among the student body, comes as a result of a severe and detrimental lack of communication between the administration and the Hampshire community.

This movement has received such a prompt and widespread response because it challenges a history of operation within the administration that has become an unwelcome norm and reflects the lack of voice which students, faculty, and staff have. The process in which the ASH project was implemented attacks the principles of transparency and shared governance which this school must uphold.

I urge the student body, faculty, and staff to join this movement against the ASH project and recognize that the priorities of this school are determined by few who can actually attest to what kind of place Hampshire represents.

Toward a collaborative and properly represented future

By NICHOLAS LUTOMSKI

The Hampshire community talks a lot about being “interdisciplinary.” It also boasts about students, faculty, and staff having equal say in how school governance operates. These are two things that led me to apply to Hampshire, a little over a year ago. If the school really wants to increase application and admission rates, they should be celebrating these key elements to the school’s identity, not just making allusions to them rhetorically.

The ASH-Admissions project and the Library ReHamping proposal illustrate the ways in which design is not just a physical change in architecture, but also actually represents greater social implications. By moving a part of Admissions into the ASH lobby, which I believe is a waste of funds that could

be used more effectively and sustainably, the administration is devaluing the New England landscape, and the college’s agricultural roots which prospective students experience on their walk. It commercializes our identity, and brands us no differently than any other school. If you want to sell an institution with the concept of community outreach, and interdisciplinary ideals, then your administrative decisions shouldn’t be so diametrically oppositional to that ideology.

Lastly, I want to point out a misconception that is a result of the current design of our campus, and that might also account for this administrative decision. It is about a 6 minute walk from the very center of campus to any of the Route 116 facilities—admissions, health services, communications office, and so on. I know because I walk to work there twice a week, and enjoy it. Compared to other college campuses, this is not a long walk. So what accounts for some people’s complaints about it? Well, it’s the absence of other people, and the lack of interactions and useable space there. So, why not, instead of putting money (which we just don’t have in the first place) into the creation of a fabricated prospective student tour, that as a community, we reevaluate our ideas of “the center” of campus, and extending that towards Route 116—in other words, our connection to Amherst, and our surrounding community.

Why not create more diverse experiences for students, faculty and staff while keeping in mind our unique agricultural heritage? Why not celebrate the Route 116 area as our portal into the surrounding community? Why not give the Hampshire community equal say in how our institution is designed, and presented to visitors?

Why not put your money where your mouth is?

BY AARON RICHMOND-HAVEL

Prior to receiving my acceptance to Hampshire in the spring of '09 I wasn't completely sure that this was the school for me. I was in awe of lots of aspects about this school, but for some reason or another, I wasn't sold. It wasn't until I got my acceptance letter in April that it actually occurred to me that I should visit the campus. After arguing with my parents I finally decided that it would be in my best interest to come up for one of the accepted student days. My tour started after lunch, in the RCC, and then moved to FPH for an info session. By this point, I thought that this visit was actually seeming a little bland and pointless. It wasn't until my mom and I decided to take our own tour of the school that I realized just what a special place Hampshire College is. My appreciation of the inspiring nature that we have here made my ultimate decision easier to stomach, and clearly, I decided to finalize my decision and become a part of the 09F class. My experience is also most of why I feel so passionate about Rehamping's mission, and why I feel so furious by the new plans for ASH. Prospies deserve to have an honest view of what this campus is like, and what right does the administration have to take that away from them? If I hadn't taken the initiative to tour the non-academic spaces on campus, who knows if I would have come to the same conclusion.

BY EMILY HOMONOFF

It's finals week. We're all writing papers, doing projects, trying to be students. I've been at Hampshire for the past three years operating predominantly with this thought in mind: "Be a student first, everything else can wait". But given what has been apparently happening since September, I am beginning to rethink what it means to be a responsible student.

Does being a student mean... going to class and getting work done on time? This is where my critical thinking has stopped in the past. I've never really thought about it honestly, but if being a student means only going to class and doing work, I need to remember that neither of these activities could

possibly exist in a bubble. A class cannot exist without a space to exist in, and that space cannot exist without the resources offered by both our staff and faculty.

Being a student does not mean being an industry of one- it means acknowledging the responsibility that we have to each other as a community. This is something I have only recently recognized and I regret putting my blinders up for so long, for looking at all of the issues of Hampshire College coming and going, with barely a word of support on my part. If I want to value being a student, I need to value this community.

One of the problems that we have been buzzing about is the breakdown in communication between the administration and the rest of the school. My feeling is that we are all in this together. Rather than pointing fingers, we need to fix how we communicate information on this campus- we do not necessarily need another committee- another representative. We need rethink how we defer to sending e-mails, check little boxes: we need to make a space that feels personal, productive rather than a space that creates more red tape to trip over. We are all very busy people, rightly prioritizing our industries of one. Is it possible for us to avoid further fragmentation of our very delicate, interdependent community? Could we rationally think through, as a community, the best way for us to organically communicate? I am not proposing that one person undertake this project, I think it is the next step towards looking at how we can function as a transparent, inclusive institution.

I feel hurt by the way in which the plan to create a satellite admissions office in ASH was gone about- if the administration does not want to lose the trust of this community, I would seriously rethink how to communicate crucial information that effects students, staff, and faculty.

BY MOLLY EINHORN

In some sense we collectively have come here, to Hampshire, to learn what it means to be progressive, and to process and to collaboratively make our world, and in this matter our small community a better place for all.

Is this situation not a direct metaphor for our country? The man, vs. the people?

Our collective need as a student body is to have a safe space where we can learn and grow. We need to feel that the officials running this space care about our needs.

There inability to see us as innovative in regards to rehamping and to go behind us about changes to ash deliberately illustrate that they do not carry the same intentions.

What are there intentions? And how does it benefit us?

I think the problem lies in defining what we are... are we a community or are we an institution?

Is our purpose to make money? Or is our purpose to evolve young minds?

This is our money and we should have direct voting power in how it is spent. We NO to the Ash reconstruction.

BY DIANA BROWN

After infusing the entire college with a sense of impending doom about our delicate position in the current economic crisis throughout the year, I find it downright disingenuous that administrators like Mark Spiro, Steve Weisler, and of course, Ralph Hexter, would then turn around and decide to implement a six-figure construction deal without consulting so much as a SINGLE other segment of the Hampshire community in the process. Although I could focus on the insultingly condescending administrative double-speak and reticence that has gone on with this proposed construction, I'd like

to focus on the logical fallacy of the project itself. I'm sure that everyone reading this is aware that our college is in desperate need of structural repairs and better accessibility. Why, then, is an arbitrary rearrangement of our facilities prioritized over the pressing needs of our current students? If the new construction in ASH is a move to try and entice more students, thereby augmenting our income, then this is one of the most ineffective strategies ever conceived. I mean conceived of. Who's heard of anyone choosing a college based purely on the length of the walking tour? If the higher-ups are truly concerned about our current financial situation, then they should be focusing on increasing our retention rate, as Mark Spiro said we should at the last budget talk-back, by ensuring our (students, faculty, and staff) happiness and well-being. An aesthetic and accessible makeover of our current facilities is what's in order. What use, pray tell, is a new Admissions office to a prospective student once they enroll at Hampshire and realize they have to walk a half a mile with the flu to get to Health Services?

BY NICOLA CHÁVEZ-COURTRIGHT

If you are hiding something from the student body (who, by the way, define what the school is) because you know they won't like it, then you already know you are doing something wrong and shouldn't go for it in the first place.

BY ZAIDEE EVERETT

Hey, how about you spend some money to improve the buildings we have?

BY TATIANA SOUTAR

I find it highly disrespectful for the people in charge of thinking about changing Hampshire's campus (tearing down trees to create a parking lot and new admissions building) to not ask the student body about their ideas or even notifying us. By asking our opinion, construction can be avoided, or at

the very least, innocent trees can not be cut down and if they asked the student body instead of covertly meeting and planning a not so sustainable plan to 'improve' Hampshire's campus, we could have issued ideas that could have benefitted Hampshire.

For example, instead of costly construction to make a new admissions building and parking lot, simply because it's too far a walk for some people, we could make a single road connecting the parking lot of Enfeild to the parking lot of the admissions building. This way, people visiting Hampshire do not get lost easily and will be connected to the rest of campus.

Another idea that could have been suggested, is since so many people have apparently been complaining about how far the walk is, which it's about a five minute to 10 minutes walk from anywhere on campus, we could buy with all that construction money a couple of electric cars that hold about 5-10 people, so instead of walking, which is incredibly lazy, we could drive them to and from the admissions building.

To make unsustainable choices, of which Hampshire's goals are of the opposite, simply because of complaints that it's 'too far away', is absolutely ludicrous, and therefore the students of Hampshire, of hearing this, find this wholly against our philosophies of what Hampshire is about. We spend too much money to go to a school that prides itself for a very active community, and so, as the community, we will be very active in stopping this rather unsuitable plan of yours.

Sincerely,
A concerned student

BY GREER HARPER

About a year ago today we were perspective students coming to Hampshire's campus. The memory of that process is still fresh in our minds today. We remember knowing that we both belonged at Hampshire after journeying from the admissions office to the RCC. We looked out across that field and could see mountains and fall trees surrounding us. We felt

inspired. We could picture ourselves in that environment where the community is nestled into the pioneer valley. Cutting that walk out of the perspective student's journey would change the nature of Hampshire. Hampshire is not like the other five colleges. We do not have the most beautiful buildings but we are surrounded by a magnificent view. We should take advantage of that view and keep that journey in the perspective student's tour. We are first year student. We were perspective student a year or so ago today. We are fully against moving admissions to ASH.

BY JESSICA RATHER AND CASSY MUSTER

Given Hampshire's current economic situation with major budget cuts and staff salary reductions, all large financial decisions made by the administration directly impact the students. In these times of tight finances, a \$350,000 project to slightly reduce the amount of walking prospective students do (and the parts of Hampshire that they see) on tours is completely ludicrous.

Pointing out areas of our campus, education, and resource supply that could better use this \$350,000 seems unnecessary: Hampshire's students staff and faculty are constantly reminded of our college's economic limitations.

However, what seems perhaps more absurd than the fact that this decision was made was the fact that it was done secretly without input from students or faculty. This is an insulting display of disrespect from our administration.

What makes Hampshire unique is the freedom we have as students to direct and take charge of our education. As such, we, as students must be consulted, and heard before decisions are made with the potential to greatly alter aspects of our education and our school.

BY EVAN LEBRUN

Hampshire is a place that thrives off of its many unique and passionate students. Hampshire advertises itself as a school that allows the students freedom to go in whatever direction they want to and expects the students to take initiative in action during that process. One would think that at a place where students are told time and time again to develop their own voice and opinions, the students would expect the administration in turn to actually listen to what they have to say. The ASH project is contradicting what Hampshire stands for. By going behind student's backs and not informing them about this major project that has been going on, they are ignoring the fact that students have voices and opinions about what goes on at their school. This project was developed for Hampshire students but without any of their opinion or say. This reflects the bigger issue of the lack of communication between members of the administration to the student, staff, and faculty community. The project should be halted until the entire community can share their beliefs of whether or not they agree with the project. Not only is the project unnecessary, it is using funds that can be redirected to a project that would be more beneficial to the community as a whole, such as the REHAMPING project.

BY MEGAN MEO

When I heard about Steve Weisler, Ralph Hexter, Mark Spiro and Mike Cappello's plan to split admissions, and move part of it to Adele Simmons Hall, I was outraged. I couldn't believe that in this time of financial struggle, members of our administration were working towards this project. Not only is this plan incredibly expensive, but it was formed without the knowledge, and therefore without the support of the majority of the college, including the people that it would most directly affect: admissions.

I oppose the move of admissions to ASH because not only does it use funds that we don't have (which would result in the termination of some staff members' jobs), but because it directly ignores that any-

one other than the administration has a voice on this campus. If Hexter, Weissler, Spiro, Cappello and anyone else involved with this sneaky, slippery directive go ahead with the project, without listening to the voices of the Hampshire College community, I really wouldn't know what to think about my place here at Hampshire.

What does that say to me? How much do I matter, how much does my voice matter to the administration?

And Steve Weisler (and Ralph Hexter), the way I view it, all current Hampshire students are still prospective students. We can leave. I don't want to, because I love my community -- the one that listens to me -- but really, think about how your actions affect the current students as opposed to just the incoming prospective students. Think about how your actions affect the current staff and faculty. They are the ones who keep this place running along with the students.

We have to think about how life will be for the current population of Hampshire as opposed to just the possible future of Hampshire.

Do better things with our money. If you're going to move anything from that part of campus to "main" campus -- move health services. If you're going to spend over \$300,000 that we don't have, spend it on making this place better for those that are currently here.

Listen to what we have to say. We are Hampshire.

By Dot Goldberger

My dear Hampshire College,

Today I emerged from my Div III cave, feeling exhausted but pleased about the state our relationship, only to find that you have not been honoring your relationship with me, or with the others who

love you. Communication is a vital part of any relationship, HC, and I thought you knew that. Regardless of the quality of your decision in this instance, which we WILL be discussing later, I am most disappointed with your decision not to share your decision with your friends and family. Really, HC? What were you thinking? You know that these decisions are large, and impact all of us. I'm quite frankly astounded that you didn't ask for the input of all the people who would be affected by them.

Were you afraid of our reactions? I know that we can be shrill sometimes, and I know that I've been very angry at you in the past, but if you had told us about the problems you were facing, and asked for help, we would have willingly given you advice and assistance. We all want what is best for you, but when you behave in sneaky, underhanded ways, it makes it very hard to trust you. In fact, you've made things worse because you didn't tell us.

Right now, I am both angry and disappointed in you, HC, and I hope that you will take some time to think about the consequences of your actions. I expect you to be on your best behavior for the foreseeable future.

Disappointedly yours,
Melanie

BY MELANIE MAGOLAN

Here are the reasons why I believe that the ASH project should be vetoed:

- It is unnecessary.
- The secretive dishonest way in which it was planned reveals a great contempt for the values central to the Hampshire community
- It is a grave incursion into academic space
- It is more important to preserve jobs than to move part of admissions

BY REBECCA SIEGEL

I believe the ASH project should be put on hold until we as a community are given the full details and reasoning for the project, as well as a full explanation as to why we only found out two weeks before summer. Any changes made to our campus, or institution at large, without the full knowledge and involvement of the community is an insult to our capacity as students, faculty and staff. Hampshire is a small community that needs communication and trust in all levels of governance--what has happened is inexcusable and inappropriate. We need dialogue, trust, clear communication and collaboration! We love this school, we want to help make it better, so let's work together.

BY FREDDY FLUCHEL

Born and raised in a town of around 60,000 I made the radical decision when applying to college to attend a school in the middle of New York city. Needless to say, the experience was one of the most shocking in my life. Returning home during winter break helped provide me with the necessary perspective, and I made the decision to transfer from an arts school in the middle of one of the largest cities in the country, to a small liberal arts school in the countryside of Massachusetts.

I visited the Hampshire campus in February which, as every student knows, is a harsh time on campus. Nonetheless, alone on a tour in the middle of the New England winter I fell instantly in love with Hampshire's campus. The moment that sealed the deal was that moment when the bus from town turned the corner onto the gorgeous, open vista that first meets the eyes upon every return to campus. I knew Hampshire could provide me with the nature and peace of mind I was missing at school in New York.

Hampshire's campus is even closer to my heart now, after only a year, than it was in those initial moments. The diversity of the student

body, and our incredible passion and focus, also drew me to the school which is why I was so pained upon hearing of the plan to place a satellite of Admissions in ASH. The campus, beautiful in and of itself, also reflects the diverse passions and interests of the student body. Hampshire, and its students, take great pride in this. Our campus should reflect the passions and needs of the students, those who live and work here, rather than those of a few in powerful positions. This is what makes such an incredible failure of communication so disheartening.

BY NATHAN RUBINFELD

1. If the admissions office is in ASH, the first thing prospective students are introduced to at Hampshire College is the art village - the ugliest group of buildings on campus.

2. When touring UMASS the walk around campus is basically ten times as long, why are we complaining?

3. I've heard many students say that the walk from the admissions office helps them gain perspective of the surrounding scenery/life at Hampshire. The rural area is a big part of what makes Hampshire unique.

4. We should be spending this money to move health services closer - something to benefit the students and quality of life on campus. Maybe doing things towards improving campus life for current students will help students stay instead of transfer.

BY AVA FREEMAN

Over two years ago I was a prospective student on a campus tour. It was a cold, gray January day, but not once did I think about how cold and gray it was, or how long the walk from admissions to the main campus was. I was too busy thinking about how perfect Hampshire's academic ideology was for me. I remember thinking how amazing it was that this sort of learning environment existed, and that I may someday be a part of it. Isn't that the type of student we want to attract? To me, a student who judges a school based on it's physical appearance is NOT a Hampshire student. Spending hundreds of

thousands of dollars to increase our applicant pool with this type of individual will not only have short term fiscal consequences for our college, but will also have long term effects on defining the Hampshire student body.

BY ELIANA MINNA HALPERN

The sun pounded down on the fifty or so students that gathered on the library quad last Sunday. I looked around and felt proud to be part of a movement that brought together so many kids from all over the campus. Moments like this are what really raise our retention rate not new info session rooms on central campus. If we really want to attract and retain the brightest prospective students from across the country we need to make everyone feel like they belong and that they are involved at Hampshire. This creates a sense of place that makes it hard to leave. I think an innovative participatory process that spurs education outside of the classroom would make Hampshire one of the best, most selective and intriguing colleges in the world. We don't need flashy new buildings; we just need more discussion circles on the grassy quad under the unseasonably hot sun.

BY MAX HOLDHUSEN

Changing the location of admissions takes an already small campus and amputates one of its most beautiful sections, centralizing the Hampshire experience into buildings that are well-trodden as is. It also deviates- not just in the scurrilous attempt to pass the plan quietly- from Hampshire's founding image, one that focused on making Hampshire less traditional, from ideology to space.

Turning our admissions process into a standardized auditorium setting no doubt replete with numbing power points seems like a masochistic, deranged ploy to bleed out the attributes that Hampshire advertises itself to have- individual attention given to small numbers of students, a celebration of our beautiful natural setting, and an engaged interest in making college an immersion into development and learning that yes, might require- dare I

say it- a series of short walks across one of the most beautiful and commendably open green spaces that any private college can boast of in America. I'm amazed at the audacity of the administration and President- I understand why they tried to move this secretly, because it threatens a future Hampshire that will deviate from the community we have been trying to build for forty years.

BY JOSH LANDES

I am writing this article as a response to the revelatory information that Ralph Hexter, Steve Weisler, Mark Spiro, and Mark Capello have been plotting to place an admissions satellite in Adele Simmons Hall. Hampshire College's own Rehamping Project has brought to our attention that this plan, which would include a renovation of ASH, has been in the works since early this year. It has only now been made public.

The logic behind this admissions-to-ASH transition is extremely flawed. Steve Weisler, the man in charge of admissions who doesn't take the time to meet with his own staff, the man who is afraid his secret plans will be met with "hostility" from the Hampshire community, has used his unilateral interpretation of admissions data to try and enact a lasting and costly change on this campus.

The Hampshire administration believes that they will attract more students if they are able to find ways to increase efficiency in the admissions process, and make the prospective/accepted student experience more mainstream. If only students can be shepherded into a windowless auditorium in ASH where they can watch a powerpoint detailing the uniqueness of Hampshire, if only they can avoid the utterly inefficient walk from admissions to the center of campus, they will then be more likely to enroll here.

I am outraged by the lack of opacity in this decision making process, by the patronization of prospective students, and the complete underestimation of the Hampshire community. I would ask

you all to consider what this "aesthetic change," this "simple experiment," will cost Hampshire. Is a \$350,000 project an experiment? What does it mean that the Hampshire administration does not invite the voices of our community: of the faculty and staff who keep college vibrant and the students whose tuition keeps it in business?

More importantly than money, what will it mean to change the way Hampshire is presented to incoming students? Without the input of those of us who are intimately involved in the process that is Hampshire College, the administration cannot hope to enact positive change.

BY MOLLY EINHORN

Who will be affected by the addition of an admissions satellite to ASH?

CS FACULTY, who may have to work with less space than they have in the past, or schedule classes around tours to have access to necessary resources. No one is sure exactly what this proposed move would displace!

CS STUDENTS, who will have to deal with increased distractions and noise interrupting class discussions, lectures, and independent study.

ADMISSIONS OFFICERS, admissions interns, and student tour guides, who will have to change how they show Hampshire to prospective students to avoid disturbing students and adapt to a new working environment.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, who will no longer get to talk about Hampshire in their info sessions in a big, welcoming circle in the Red Barn, and will instead have to hear a lecture about Hampshire in the ASH Auditorium. Spaces do affect the quality of discussion and information!

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, because we are all affected by the financial state of the college, which is dire. This project is expected to cost \$350,000,

which we do not have. How many staff and faculty will have to take cuts to make this happen?

Who got a say in this important decision?

Ralph Hexter, Mark Spiro, Steve Weisler, and Mark Cappello.

HALT ASH ‘RENOVATIONS’ until student (and staff, and faculty) voices have been heard. Or better yet, CALL IT OFF ALTOGETHER. The process was unfair, but the whole idea is absurd as well. The administration has obviously not found it hard to overfill our school by sending prospective students on the current tour. **HOLD THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR BAD DECISIONS. DEMAND A VOICE FOR STUDENTS.**

BY VANESSA BELLINI

If the objective is constructing a more appealing image of Hampshire to present to prospective students, and without even thoroughly fleshing out the absurdities about the logic behind the “solution” this project presents, the most immediately obvious conflict lies in the paradox of their intent and its eventual result. Shouldn’t our administration fear the mark left by this abuse of power and misuse of finances on our school’s democratic history, a factor in part comprising this school’s image? And why don’t they? Who are they appealing to? Instead of cloaking a real view of Hampshire, instead of our renovations operating on essentially negative terms, we ought to direct our funds toward positive and concrete improvements meant to better the conditions of the students, faculty, and staff already committed to Hampshire’s future.

BY REBECCA DELUCIA

Under Frugal Times,

The decision making process that has led to the plan of moving a satellite of admissions to the ASH building, is indicative of a larger set of questions. The first thing that came to mind when I heard about this plan, and the whole explanation about it being

geared towards appealing to a certain kind of student, made me think about the State of the College lectures. We have been made aware that Hampshire as every other academic institution in the country is suffering from the economic downturn- what I learned from Ralph Hexter’s lectures on Hampshire’s current situation, is that Hampshire is in an economic emergency. We are at a point where decisions have to be made to address the dwindling amount of full pay students we have, Hampshire’s main source of revenue. The quick solution to this problem gets framed under the idea that we must appeal to more full pay students, to more people who will bring fuller money to the school in order to sustain it.

When I hear this, I am driven to imagine an administrator sitting at a desk trying to design a school thinking about that special student, that particular type we need to appeal to- the one that comes-with-the cash. Because they are working under budget constraints, every single decision must be made to appeal to that student, the one we keep thinking and dreaming about, he, she, they will be great and they will hate that walk from the admissions by the Red Barn, because they will detest getting that New England rain on their nicer than average coat. How does one design a school that attracts richer students?

First off, I think the question is fundamentally flawed, because the questions should be geared towards two important aspects not included in this corporate mindset. The real questions that should be at the forefront are: how do you appeal to the kind of student who will be most likely to flourish under the current system at Hampshire College, and, how do you make sure that students stay for four years at Hampshire College?

How does one revise the current inefficiencies of a system in order to save money while respecting students, faculty and staff?

Surely, under these constraints, building a 300,000 dollar parking lot to serve the new admis-

sions satellite does the job. I am truly offended by the news of this decision, particularly under the context of these frugal times. I believe that in these times of crisis, the only way change is going to come about, and the only way that we are going to be able to protect people's integrities and this school, is going to come from public and open participation. Who is better equipped to know what it is that makes Hampshire students happy? I am more than positive that if we were to put our minds together in thinking about solutions to the problems concealed to us, we would have much more relevant ideas - think, the Re-Hamping project.

In order for that to happen though, there needs to be transparency and a clear channel of connection between the administration, staff and faculty, and more importantly, respect for a student body that I believe, is capable of saving its own school.

BY ALEJANDRA CUÉLLAR

The really great thing I see in the Re-Hamping project is student and community based ideas. Tons of students and staff and others all coming together and thinking about what we want Hampshire to become, how we want to see our own community evolve in the future. There is a near total lack of communication and dialogue at Hampshire and again a near total lack of community involvement in decision making. I feel like students have been saying more transparency, more voice, more decision making power, more community involvement, forever, at least since before I came to Hampshire. I particularly remember a Re-Rad student sit in of an executive cabinet meeting earlier this very semester, at which the administration, and Steve Wiesler specifically, promised to work for greater transparency and student involvement in decision making. This upcoming movement of part of admissions is only the latest incident.

But the Re-Hamping project is terrific. Imagine, the community comes together and demands a say in administrative decision making, stops the

movement of part of admissions to ASH, and starts the process of re-constructing spaces in the library and the RCC. Then as those spaces, become more like a student union the space itself facilitates the kind of academic collaboration and social community that Hampshire so desperately needs. Community makes improvement makes community makes even more positive change. How can Hampshire send students out to help fix the world if we can't even fix Hampshire? This is the first step.

Of course in all of this is a scathing critique of the administration, but I'm not sure what is to be gained by repeating that. I have said it before, other students have said it, faculty and staff have said it, the administration may even have heard it by now. My real hope with the Re-Hamping process is that students will not give up on it, like a passing fad, like so many other activist enthusiasms before. The end of the semester is not on our side here, but what if students stay with the process? An architectural renovation will be a long, long process but, by the time Hampshire has a wonderful newly renovated library and RCC, Hampshire will also have a new kind of community. The student body will be involved in long term activist work, that cannot be forgotten just because of summer break, that doesn't just flare up for one weekend. We will start hearing everyone's voices, start thinking collectively about our college's future. This is a first step that leads to a second step and many more steps, which I hope we will remember to keep walking.

BY BARBARA GOLDENTYER

Dear President Ralph Hexter, Steve Weisler, Mark Spiro, and Mark Cappello,

On Friday night I was one of the many to attend the Rehamping meeting. The proposals for non-invasive design changes in the library/bridge space given by the students were extremely pragmatic and eloquently articulated. One of the core ideas behind these proposals was to make a more fluid space for the community that involved the community. Why

not have a space that better showcased past Div III work? Why not have Mixed Nuts, something that represents some of Hampshire core values, in the heart of the Hampshire space?

The discussion then went on to an issue that directly contradicts the idea of involving the community in the creation and development of spaces on campus: the breakup of admissions. There was a lot of hostility towards this idea. Don't we have budget issues? Isn't staff getting cut? So why is this project happening? Is this really what the Hampshire community needs? Why weren't people working at admissions involved in this? Why wasn't the whole community involved in this?!

As a first year, this was the first time that I saw the potential for community involvement at Hampshire tapped into. Around campus I hear many people making the same complaints about a lack of community, which in turn, develops a sort of apathy to what happens around campus. Yet at the same time in the Hampshire population there are strong values revolving around the connectedness of everybody within the community and community empowerment. At this meeting those values were put into action by the students, faculty and staff in a strong way. This meeting shows that at Hampshire there is a strong desire within the many different levels of the Hampshire community to be more involved in the development and direction of the college.

You are all integral parts of this very special community at administration. I am sure you have valid reasons for the choice to move admissions, but I beseech you: involve us! Set up a time where we all can have a dialogue with each other. You all might be surprised at what we have to say and vice-versa.

BY ALEK GORZEWSKI

How to Make a Point 101:

If satisfying distribution requirements has taught me one thing, it would be how to go about

raising those key questions to defend your argument for superb paper writing skills. How about we apply that to something important.

1. Why would anyone propose that valuable classroom/academic space be taken up by tour groups?

Last semester I took a class in the auditorium in ASH that has been proposed to be the new home for informational sessions that take place several times a day. Where would myself and about thirty-something other students have learned about cognitive neuroscience if that space had not been available?

2. Why would we get rid of the walk over the hill for tours, when Amherst College strives to have that experience for their prospective students?

In a recent issue of the Daily Collegian, an article called "Schools Work to Perfect the Art of the Campus Visit" was published. I don't have the article in front of me as I'm writing this, but a section of it talks about how Amherst tours are always ended with a walk up a beautiful hill on campus, so that prospectives can see the glories of New England. Why would we take that away from the experience, when that is what attracts many students to our school?

3. How on earth can we afford \$350,000 for this project, but made budget cuts on a variety of things that help students LEARN?

Quantitative Resource Center and art classes to name a few.

4. Why, in an institution that prides itself in democracy, were so few people involved in the planning and awareness of this?

Hey there, Hexter! All of the students at Hampshire were once prospectives. We're all here right now, correct? I'd say a very large percentage of us went on that tour you are proposing to change.

I know I certainly would not be here if my info session had been in front of a screen like at Northeastern. That's why I'm at Hampshire. That's why we all are. Give students, staff, and faculty a little say before you turn the place upside down on us.

BY HOLLY MACDONALD

Life is Too Short to Make Every Demand

The renovation of ASH, and the administration's dominance over decisions made about Hampshire's physical space is a single site with which we can understand some of the larger logic operating in our community.

Moving Admissions tours to ASH is an encumbrance on the admissions staff, as well as everyone else who uses ASH every day. We (students, staff, faculty) should have a voice in decisions being made about our spaces, our jobs, and our budget. And beyond any doubt, we should make sure that we voice our opinions. But lets not be confused- the spacial reprogramming of ASH is an encumbrance, among many encumbrances. In other words, it is a symptom. Another symptom will be the jobs which will have to be cut because we decided to spend a few hundred thousand dollars of our small budget on an unnecessary renovation. And when staff and faculty lose their jobs, not only do we lose members of our community, we also add additional work onto faculty and staff who are still here. Expecting staff and faculty to do unpaid work is an immoral, invisible, and unspoken problem which plagues our campus.

The symptoms are coming from the same sickness. That sickness is (most) of the administration. Millions of dollars of our budgets is spent on their salaries, while jobs are cut, raises are meager, and maintenance is deferred. They run our college like a corporation, while ignoring the principles on which it was based, and the reasons why we love it. They ignore and demean members of our community. They lack any accountability of any sort for their actions. They have names: Hexter, Spiro, Weisler, so on.

There is a great divide on this campus. It is a canyon, a chasm, a wall, and an unhealing wound. Time after time, students, staff, and faculty do countless amounts of hard work simply to be able to be heard. And time after time, the administration makes it more difficult to speak, chooses not to listen, and turns back on their promises. Every time those voices are hushed and disappeared, leaving us feeling alienated and apathetic, we are confronted with the memory of all the unfulfilled demands of the past which flash across our eyes like stars burning out. The scab is torn back and the wound re-opened.

As a slowly amassing group of bodies learning to feel our collective power, we most importantly need to realize our vulnerabilities, and power differentials within our movements. We need to stand in solidarity with (the brave and tireless) staff and faculty, we need to learn to take up less space, check our privileges (both respective and collective), we need to learn, to listen, to harmonize, to support.

As much as we recognize our vulnerabilities, this is also an exciting moment to realize our potential. This moment has a vast potential to address more than the plan lobby of ASH, and the shady details of the process. We need to address all of the symptoms of our college- our lack of autonomy over the planning of our spaces, unfair labor practices, the administration's waning (if ever) commitment to being an actively anti-racist campus, the lack of a stronger student presence within the board of the trustees and governance, poor use of the budget, and a lack of optimism and vision, etc. We need to realize and act on all of our collective and unrealized desires of Hampshire as an experimental and democratic learning community. And we need to begin to work, with a positive attitude, and with each other, to build our own future and vision of an institution with values, character, and community worth struggling for. The time has come to confront the administration with our desires and our hope, because, as the great writer on education Henry Giroux, reminds us, "Without hope there is only the politics of cynicism."

Dear Hampshire Community,

We as a community must stand up to ensure the preservation of the principals that separate Hampshire from so many other institutions. The relationships between faculty, staff, and students at Hampshire enable collaboration and innovation between disciplines and modes of knowledge separated at almost all other academic institutions in the country. Regardless of the physical states of many of our academic and residential buildings, students seek out Hampshire because they want to be part of this collaboration and the fantastic projects that are created from these processes.

As Mark Capello noted, we have over 52 million dollars in deferred maintenance, and an annual operating budget of around 1.4 million for addressing renovation issues each year. The key question then becomes - how do we allocate that money? Our administrations have identified retention and appeal to prospective students as key issues that we must address since we are a tuition driven school. Steve Weisler has argued that the "long" walk from admissions and the "ugly" room where the information sessions are held (the Red Barn) are strong reasons why prospective students, initially interested in Hampshire, loose interest.

I firmly believe that this logic is wrong. Every single student whom I have discussed this issue with has expressed the importance of the walk from the Admissions building to main campus as a key factor in their interest in Hampshire College. This walk is the time where I, as a tour guide, explain the resources available to students in this wing of Hampshire campus (financial services and health services) and more importantly, speak extensively about the Hampshire College Farm Center, one of our strongest selling points as a college. This "long" walk (approximately 6 minutes) also serves to alleviate many student's fear of Hampshire campus being "too small", a concern I hear often before the tour starts. Additionally, the view of the New England landscape during this walk is gorgeous, providing a platform to discuss with the tour group how

Hampshire utilizes our surroundings through OPRA trips, student groups, and everyday engagement.

Holding information sessions in the Red Barn allows prospective students to sit in a circle with the tour guides and admissions counselors, giving them their first taste of the format in which many Hampshire classes are taught. I strongly oppose holding information sessions in the ASH screening room. How can we expect to communicate the Hampshire pedagogy while prospective families are sitting in rows, squinting to read the powerpoint being shown at the front of the room? This experience will make them feel like the do on many other colleges information sessions, isolated and bored. The Red Barn is a beautiful building, tours are always fascinated to hear that the space they were just in is used by numerous students for creative performances of multiple formats.

If we are really seeking to address retention, a serious problem at Hampshire (25% of students leave between their first and second year) - we must address it by only accepting students to Hampshire who really want to be here. The only way to do this is to present the most authentic version of Hampshire to prospective students we have, not lure them into Hampshire with renovations that are not representative of the desires or needs of our community. Any prospective student who thinks our Red Barn is so "ugly" and that the 6-minute walk to campus is "so long" that this becomes a determining factor in their decision to apply or attend Hampshire, in my mind, does not deserve to be part of our community.

Instead, we should invest the money that would have been used for ASH renovations into supporting our faculty and staff to prevent layoffs and addressing more pressing renovations that our community assigns top priority too. Only identifying and addressing the needs of our Hampshire community will address the deeper issues of disjunction that cause many students to leave Hampshire after their first year. Any funding we do have available must be used to preserve, maintain, and enrich the experience of current Hampshire students, not pander to

the shallow aesthetic desires of certain prospective students or parents.

With love to the Hampshire community,
Kristina Moss Gunnarsdóttir '08
Admissions Intern

When I found out about the administration's plan to renovate Adele Simmons Hall this summer, I could not help but feel disrespected. Why was I finding out about this from another student and not from the administration itself? Why was a \$300,000 project being implemented without any sort of consultation with the student body? My voice as an active member of the Hampshire community was being purposely delegitimized by those involved with this project, and I was -- and am -- not comfortable with that.

Hampshire prides itself on the "constant flow of ideas between students and faculty and encourages bold inquiry and innovative problem-solving." How is this form of learning possible when the administration so blatantly disregards student input?

Our administration ultimately answers to our student body. If we work together, we can make Hampshire a place that everyone is proud of. If secrecy and distrust become Hampshire's modus operandi, our school will move further away from its original conception. The secrecy with which the ASH project was planned is the biggest problem -- it represents a glaring lack of transparency in the Hampshire administration. Without any accountability, situations like this will arise again and again. We, as a community -- administration, staff, faculty, and students -- need to engage in a dialogue that holds a universal level of respect for all involved parties.

BY SAMANTHA BORTLE

Steve Weisler and Ralph Hexter:

The prospective students who reject Hampshire because of the long walk from Admissions to the Library Lawn or for the lived-in look of Hampshire's buildings have missed the larger fabulousness of our school. I am at Hampshire because I wanted to be at a school where students were encouraged to find meaning and excitement in their work. Please spend the money earmarked for ASH renovations on realizing the designs put forward by REHAMPING. It is this project (and others like it) that attract quality students to Hampshire.

BY AUDREY WACHS

Rethinking our Priorities

The plans for building a satellite of admissions in the ASH lobby and front rooms is a terrible idea and a prime example of the non-sensical approach that this college takes for bringing in more revenue to the school. Admission staff-people, who actually run the tours and interact with prospective students and family, strongly oppose the idea and said that it would take away the one thing that so many people enjoy: the walk up from the Red Barn. Steve Weisler has apparently been two less than two entire interviews and yet thinks he knows what is the best approach for making them "better" and making the college superficially more appealing. The fact that the school's highest administrators think a \$300,000+ construction plan during a time of financial difficulty and staff layoffs is a good idea says a lot about the priorities and level-headedness of these administrators.

It's been amazing to see how many students have rallied behind the issue in such a short time. Many dozens of students, of especially younger classes but upper-classpeople as well, showed up at the meetings on Friday night and Sunday morning with indignance and determination to see this plan come to a halt. However, what few realize and have been somewhat resistant to accept is the

larger context in which these changes are happening. According to Mark Spiro's budget projection for next year, around \$250,000 of staff salary is being cut, amidst the plan to spend more than \$300,000 on this "cosmetic" change to the ASH building/parking lot. Although that seems like an abstract concept, that means about 10-12 people who make this college actually run are going to be without jobs. This country's financial crisis is not getting better and unemployment is on the rise; HProxy-Connection: keep-alive Cache-Control: max-age=0 pshire College is about to become yet another active participant in making people significantly less financially secure. After an estimated 30-some staff firings this year (the school won't confirm or reveal the actual number because under the pretense of the "privacy" of those workers, while keeping its own ass covered), Hampshire administrators continue to turn to the most vulnerable, the lowest-paid of this school, to make the most sacrifices, while leaving the high-est paying salaries (in the 100,000s) untouched. What is it about this construction plan that makes us so angry? Is it that the ASH computer lab now won't be as accessible to us for our leisure? Or is it that Weisler and his comrades think this school, the people that go and work here and the finances that sustain them, is their chessboard accompanying their Sunday afternoon cigars, when in fact "these difficult times" need to be dealt with the greatest sensitivity for those who are here and are most vulnerable, not those who are most prospective and wealthy. Budgetary decisions like the ASH construction plan are inherently linked to the way in which the entire budget is being dealt with, and very specifically the \$250,000 coming from staff salaries. If we go through with this campaign and succeed in halting the ASH project while they continue to cut from people's livelihoods and fire another group of Phys. Plant or other workers, that's irreversible, and that's unacceptable.

BY ILANA ROSSOFF

The process by which the the decision to move an admissions satellite to ASH was made is extremely disappointing. Hampshire students were all "prospies" once, and the fact that they, along with admissions staff and interns were not consulted about tours and the prospective student experience is ridiculous and reflects poorly on the institution. This lack of transparency and accountability is unacceptable.

By Lyndie Wood

I am writing this article as a response to the revelatory information that Ralph Hexter, Steve Weisler, Mark Spiro, and Mark Capello have been plotting to place an admissions satellite in Adele Simmons Hall. Hampshire College's own Rehamping Project has brought to our attention that this plan, which would include a renovation of ASH, has been in the works since early this year. It has only now been made public.

The logic behind this admissions-to-ASH transition is extremely flawed. Steve Weisler, Dean of Enrollment who doesn't take the time to meet with his own admissions staff, the man who is afraid his secret plans will be met with "hostility" from the Hampshire community, has used his unilateral interpretation of admissions data to try and enact a lasting and costly change on this campus.

The Hampshire administration believes that they will attract more students if they are able to find ways to increase efficiency in the admissions process, and make the prospective/accepted student experience more mainstream. If only students can be shepherded into a windowless auditorium in ASH where they can watch a powerpoint detailing the uniqueness of Hampshire, if only they can avoid the utterly inefficient walk from admissions to the center of campus, they will then be more likely to enroll here.

I am outraged by the lack of opacity in this decision making process, by the patronization of prospective students, and the complete underestimation of the Hampshire community. I would ask

you all to consider what this “aesthetic change,” this “simple experiment,” will cost Hampshire. Is a \$350,000 project an experiment? What does it mean that the Hampshire administration does not invite the voices of our community: of the faculty and staff who keep college vibrant and the students whose tuition keeps it in business?

More importantly than money, what will it mean to change the way Hampshire is presented to incoming students? Without the input of those of us who are intimately involved in the process that is Hampshire College, the administration cannot hope to enact positive change.

BY NICOLE LOEFFLER-GLADSTONE

I don’t usually participate in Hampshire’s internal politics. My academic work doesn’t come even remotely close to them, and this college seems to be full of trustworthy people showing way more interest in them than I ever could.

So why am I writing to the Omen, probably in my own terrible way?

That’s because after two years at Hampshire, some people with an incomprehensible agenda have really gone too far:

Adele Simmons Hall isn’t the building that needs renovation on this campus. The college’s scarce resources could be used in a number of ways, all of which make so much more sense than these ASH consideration. Maybe fixing the leaks in Cole and EDH, maybe even fix the rusty roof of the Art village, or any of the things that make Hampshire be 52 millions late on necessary renovations.

So to the people who are reading this and can prevent this from happening, please: listen to us. We know how to make the campus be more attractive to prospective students (because we are its primary users), and renovating ASH is certainly not the first thing to do. Not only are our arguments numerous, but we are also willing to discuss them with

you AND tell you what we think you should do first (which is open to discussion, of course).

But ASH ultimately isn’t the point of the discussion we’re trying to open. The point is the terrifying lack of communication between the administration of this college and its primary users, i.e. the students, faculty and staff. The administration shouldn’t be “afraid” of telling the Hampshire community what they have in mind to make the campus better (or attract more students, which shouldn’t really be the point - either way), they should be asking us how we can help make their plans (and the use of their budget) more efficient. We’re all working for the same thing here, so let’s try not to turn this into a childish war between the administration and community that has been overall disappointed by your decisions. By not doing your work correctly, you have forced us to momentarily put our studies aside and help you do what you apparently can’t get right.

Hampshire would be so much less dysfunctional if we worked together. Please don’t dismiss this attempt to constructive criticism, but again, simply have some faith in the people that ultimately make Hampshire what it is.

BY EZRA TEBOUL

Hampshire College is a body, an organism, whose well-being and longevity are dependent on the successful and harmonious collaboration of its constituents, its cells, and its appendages. Students, staff, faculty, the surrounding communities, natural and social resources, all contribute to the stability of this institution. Hampshire is facing a deficiency and a breakdown in the homeostasis it requires to realize its ideals, goals and intention. As vital organs in this system, we as students and stakeholders, deserve open communication and genuine respect from the administration and forces of governance on campus. If this plan, to relocate admissions to ASH--which will create drastic programmatic shifts in campus spaces--is allowed to continue, we will have been stripped of our democratic rights and removed

from a process of planning and decision making that is intrinsic to the quality and integrity of our experience as students. As a son of two Hampshire alumni, I've heard over and over the nostalgic accounts of my Mom and Dad, whose first physical interaction with Hampshire was being greeted by the Red Barn and its pastoral surroundings. As a student of agriculture, I have a deep appreciation for the land and the agrarian history of the Valley. Admissions, the campus tour, and the prospective student experience are all connected to and complimented by the beauty of the Hampshire landscape and its romantic past. We need to uphold this value and appreciation for history and place, it would be tragic to loose such a foundational connection. If the admissions process was centralized at ASH we would see a new relationship with our environment. We would be met with the image and physical presence of institutional buildings--academic blinders placed on our eyes directing us toward individuality and careerism. Yes, we are students and this is an institution, but we are first humans, born from the land.

BY EVAN THALER-NULL

Dear Hampshire,

From the outset, the Rehamping project has been one of the most engaging and inspirational activities of my life. Being entrusted with redesigning and enlivening our spaces was a huge nod of confidence from the administration and a validation of our creative powers as students, as well as recognition that we understand best how our spaces function. This creative energy did not disappoint, and through all parts of the process we encountered nothing more than our communities best efforts.

As a first year student I was blown away by the amount of involvement I could have in this community, not based on year or major but on the energy I was willing to contribute. To find a place where changes were being made and the students were involved seemed like a validation of my choice to come here. This feeling increased through our first presentation and the positive feedback we received

from administration, faculty, staff and students was incredible.

However, this feeling of community and involvement was short-lived. Soon after our first presentation we began to hear rumors about renovations being done in ASH, renovations that disregarded the general will of the student body and that did not seem to adequately assess the needs of the community. Hearing this, coming out of such a positive dialogue between students and administration was difficult to handle. I truly feel that we have been betrayed, and coming on the back of such a wonderful experience it makes me wonder what the administration wants to achieve with this action. They should realize that this kind of action is not taken lightly and that if we are to exist as a productive community we need trust and dialogue. The renovations of ASH hinder both and I believe they should be stopped until more community action can be taken.

If the renovations are proposed to improve the admissions process, the administration must realize that they will be alienating many current students. As much as admissions is important we have to be shown that as students we are as well. Mark Capello warned us not to 'shoot ourselves in the foot' with hasty action but this is what the administration is doing.

I encourage all students, faculty, staff, and administration to learn and be vocal about the current processes of governance and decision-making at this school. We are a wonderful and vibrant community and we should act as one through communication and dialogue. To the administration: we are ready to work with you but you must demonstrate a readiness as well. Halt the renovation process of ASH until we can have adequate student input in the fall of 2010.

BY SPENCER HOYT

Over the course of my first year at Hampshire College, this school has become the place I had hoped it would be as a senior in high-school. For the first time in my life, my academic experience has

become aligned with what what fascinates in the world--ultimately giving me the education I have always dreamed of, and would be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. That is not to say that this institution is perfect though. My love for this place is also what drives my passion to see it improve, and further fulfill my expectations. Rehamping has been the first group I have seen that seems fit to address Hampshire downfalls--including the fundamental lack of transparency and furthermore, co-operation between different groups of the Hampshire community that the school is usually known for. I greatly look forward to continuing to work with Rehamping, and seeing its ideas and projects to complete fruition. Thank you so much.

BY JOHN HELFRICH

I don't truly know where to begin when discussing this matter. I'm overwhelmed by the stark contrast between the facade of a collaborative institution Hampshire prides itself on and the reality of decision making on this campus. Elements of secrecy upheld by the group of administrative elite and an unwillingness to even consider the opinions of the greater Hampshire community (students, staff and faculty) communicates to me that my voice as a resident and student of Hampshire College is not valued.

Hampshire is a place defined by the accomplishments, beliefs and interests of its past and present student body. In organising how to go about explaining to our administration that the current process of undergoing significant changes to spaces on campus without consulting the needs and desires of students, staff and faculty is not working, my understanding of the maturity and overwhelming intelligence of my peers has come to fruition. We have opinions worth hearing and have a genuine interest in how decisions are made on this campus. We have more serious needs than "bettering" the college tour experience for prospective students who are each only present on this campus for a few hours at a time. Aspects of the current prospective student

experience that are highly valued-- the glimpse at the surrounding rural landscape and charming 1700-1800s New England farm buildings--will cease to have an effect on visitors. I can personally identify one space in the admissions complex (the barn adjacent to the Robert Stiles house) that is currently vacant, and could be used as a meeting space to accommodate larger groups of visiting students and parents, rather than taking over a portion of the most successful department at Hampshire and spending \$350,000 of precious funds.

We have a serious need to reconsider the way we use space on this campus. I am currently enrolled in HACU 0148: Architecture Backwards and Forwards and have been working with several vernacular structures and homes (vacant and occupied) on the fringe of central campus all semester. The design proposals of Rehamping provide relatively inexpensive, logical and extremely innovative ways of reconsidering the rcc and the library centre. These designs would have an incredible impact on the productivity of the student body. We lack study spaces that we can identify with and can be inspired by. If students were given a variety of locations in which to work and the opportunity to become aware of the products of others I can't even begin to express how I think that would affect the energy on campus, which would translate EXTREMELY well to tour groups.

BY JENNIFER CAVANAUGH

It is appalling to me that a college that prides itself in its claim that it's so different from all of the others still maintains administrative leadership corrupt enough to undertake a massive project without the consent of its student body, let alone faculty and staff.

BY JAIME HAMRE



The plans to build an admissions satellite in Adele Simmons Hall are entirely illogical given the schools financial hardships and need for other renovations. The admissions office, for one, is not a place for students the vast majority of the time, but a place for prospective students and their families to relax and mingle with one another; it is only logical to have this building be one somewhat removed from campus, unlike health services, which is far enough away that a student with the flu could become drastically more ill on the walk there in winter. The mingling prospective families will get in the way of and be distracted by present students who do not need to be pulled away from their academics. In addition, building a \$350,000 dollar addition on any building, while simultaneously planning to cut \$250,000 in faculty salaries is absurd. This will weaken our schools academic standing and dwindle the resources available to present students, who are already paying high tuition prices. We, as the students already attending Hampshire, should be made first priority. Hampshire also has a deep and unique tradition of student involvement in decision making, being something that attracts many. Building this addition in such a sly way, without any consideration of the current students and valuable faculty it would harm, is entirely non-Hampshirian as well as plain deceitful.

BY WOODY MAVES

Planned Changes to ASH, and the State of College Governance

At a recent meeting of the “Re-Hamping” group, it has become known to the campus that President Hexter, Dean of Enrollment Steven Weisler, and Director of Grounds and Facilities Mark Cappello have, since this past fall, been planning to build a satellite of the Admissions Office in Adele Simmons Hall, and a parking lot, for around 350,000\$. This project was not discussed with the students, faculty, or even most of the Trustees, and no requests for student input or ideas were ever made.

Is Admissions far away from main campus? Definitely. (Is Heath Services too far away from main campus? Definitely.) Does this deter some prospective students who might otherwise be more interested in Hampshire? Possibly. Is any of this relevant to the question of whether this project, planned in secret by only a few people, should be allowed to continue? No. This issue simply demonstrates the little respect the administration feels the student body deserves, even about an issue that may directly affect their education. ASH serves as a hub for one of the five Schools of Thought. Yet, without consulting students at large to see whether making ASH as center piece of the Admissions tour was a good idea, the administration is proceeding with a costly project that could well disrupt the learning that currently takes place in ASH, an open building in which even a little noise carries.

Disregard for student opinion seems to be part of a growing trend within the current College administration. Students voiced their opinion that there should be more than one student on the Governance Task Force, and yet students elected by the student body were never permitted to serve on that task force. Students protested the decision of the administration to admit far more students than Hampshire’s facilities, dormitories, and faculty could reasonably handle, and yet the administration went ahead and admitted students based on financial projections, with little regard to how admitting a larger class would affect community here at Hampshire. Less than two months ago, a group of students got members of the President’s Cabinet to agree to giving students a “a concrete and meaningful role for students, staff and faculty in the process of crafting both long-term and immediate budget priorities, with information provided in a timely and complete manner.” The decision to make any changes to ASH, without any consultation from the student body, is counter to this agreement, and counter to the idea of shared, transparent governance that is critical to Hampshire’s continued existence in its current form. I do not think that the administration wishes to damage the educational experience for students

here at Hampshire, and I hope they will reconsider the decision to spend some of the college's limited financial resources on a project the community had no knowledge of, and therefore can not support.

BY SARAH GORDON

To the readers of the Omen,

I've been at Hampshire for four years now and am currently wrapping up my Div III.

I'd like to say that I was unequivocally impressed by the modifications and reimagining of the college's public spaces put forth by the Rehamping group. Their proposal addresses some of the weakest points of Hampshire's structural offerings, and gives feasible and ingenious solutions to the problems at hand.

Like many who are writing in for this issue, I am appalled that these proposed changes are being tabled in favor of other projects stemming from the administration, projects that do not address anyone's needs except for those select few in President Hexter's cabinet. It seems that these funds would be put to much better use to create and showcase student works and organizations through a better use of the space we have, as the Rehamping project proposed.

This move is indicative of a much larger problem at Hampshire that largely relates to Ralph Hexter's restructuring of the administrative body: he and his cabinet are able to make decisions about the use of college funds without putting them by faculty, students, or even the deans. The administration has seemingly made it a point to do away with transparency and community input to follow goals that are not compatible with those of faculty, students, and staff.

If the trend set forth by Ralph Hexter's administration that intentionally overlooks the input of the college in the cabinet's decision-making process

continues, then many of my fellow classmates and I will soon feel extremely disconnected from that for which Hampshire stands: we are an experimental institution whose continuing innovation comes from our staff, students, and faculty. I feel that in the near future I will not be able to recommend Hampshire to my friends, my colleagues, or (way down the line) my children. Moreover (and here's where we get into administrative talk), I will not be able to support this institution financially. And neither will many of my graduating classmates.

Hampshire, no matter how many top-stoner-schools or top-hipster schools lists we top, will never be a fad college in a conventional sense. We don't have the name recognition, and we don't have the sports teams to help us gain that. All we have are the brilliant minds of students, faculty, and staff. This administration has consistently neglected this abundance of brilliance in its obsession with money, but not without an irony that reveals itself when we see large sums being misused for the wants of those few men in power.

But if the Hampshire community is the audience of this letter, there is no need for me to pontificate the problems of the administration at this school: George W. Bush likely had larger approval at the end of his second term than Ralph Hexter has ever enjoyed at Hampshire. Therefore I urge everyone to make this known to the board of trustees, to sign petitions, write letters, and go to meetings. The fact that Hampshire's administration can get away with mismanaging funds as it has in this case is frightening, but that this case follows in a line of broken promises and blatant ignorance of the students, faculty, and staff, is downright appalling. Perhaps what we need to make clear is that if this goes on, the cash goes off. That seems to be the only way of getting into the cabinet's heads.

BY PETER GRAHAM

I simply don't understand.

If the Big Three are trying to improve application rates and retention, while not villainizing themselves (but actually augmenting themselves) why aren't they doing the obvious thing.

Why don't they improve student life on campus. If they were to put money and attention towards buildings that could use the renovation, prospective students would realize how much students here were enjoying themselves as they walked through campus and talked to current students. As first-year students, their inclinations would be confirmed when they realized that what they experienced as prospective students was attainable. Having such a great time here they'd stay till the end and advocate for the school post-graduation. Putting money towards buildings that need the renovation would not only result in higher enrollment and retention, but it would create a student body that felt they had a voice. Instead of creating a façade that lures prospies into our grasp, why don't we show them what we're really about. This would attract more students than ever while boosting retention, since they would be told the truth from the beginning.

Let's implement Rehamping's designs and show the world the voice they could gain if they came here. Unless the Big Three are hiding something from us (ahem), then I think that satisfies everyone's desires.

BY RJ SAKAI

"How is Hampshire College presented to prospective students and to current students?" is the question we need to ask ourselves as we begin to see the plans for ASH potentially coming to fruition without students on campus. When I decided to attend Hampshire – almost three years ago – I was not attracted to the architecture of the campus, or to the presentation of a "conventional program." Instead, I was attracted to the vision of the students in collaboration with faculty, staff, administration, other

students and the greater community and world. I was not won over by promises of newly renovated buildings or fine architectural details, but instead by the promise of a community that would continue to facilitate my growth as a respected individual within the space and resources of our grounds and minds. I would not be spending tens of thousands of dollars per year on an education at the former kind of institute, but I am more than willing to invest my time, energy and money in the Hampshire that I have known and loved from the beginning, that latter inspiring college.

When I look at the potential plans for ASH renovations as compared to the ReHamping plans for the Library and the RCC, I see a lack of color, inspiration and care for the nature of the campus in contrast with a project whose holistic purpose is to increase conversation and support for individuality, to – in effect – create a real community of individuals. One plan is being imposed upon the community without consent or conversation, while the other project is a physical manifestation of the dialogue which should be ever-present at Hampshire College. I cannot, in good conscience and as a hardworking member of the community, allow myself and my friends and family at Hampshire to be represented in such inappropriate and disrespectful ways. For this reason, and for the pure fact that I love and cherish the inspiration of my peers and friends, I will continue to support ReHamping and avowedly pull my support from the ASH renovation process.

BY GRACE DONAHUE

In the fall of 2007, several months after I arrived at Hampshire College and about three weeks after I finally stopped getting lost on the way to my dorm room, I came to a student group meeting to find a friend of mine in a state of considerable distress. She was a student member of the Dean of Students Search Committee, and had just been informed that

the committee's recommendations had been, to put it delicately, overruled by President Hexter in favor of his own choices for candidates.

This is not a story about that process, or the flaws therein, or even about how little sleep I got that night as I helped my friend draft a letter expressing how surprised and hurt she felt. What this story is about is, I suppose, one particular portion of that letter:

I am left to wonder if what had originally been presented as an opportunity for student, faculty, and staff participation was actually only an attempt to appear as if the entire College was being properly represented, without giving these representatives any real influence.

...I want to be reassured that Hampshire is still a place where my voice can be heard ("2007-2008 Dean of Students Search", Hampedia).

That was three years ago. We have come far since then...well, I have. Pulling an all-nighter for things completely unrelated to my academic work is no longer a novel experience for me, and while I may still get lost on the way to my dorm room, I now have friends on hand who kindly remind me where I live. But Hampshire isn't doing that great a job of convincing me that it, too, has come far.

I'm assuming that the other articles in this publication have already given you the details of the proposed relocation of part of Admissions to Adele Simmons Hall. I'm assuming that you have read at least some of the other accounts of surprise, hurt and anger, and that you processed them even if you do not understand their feelings. This story is, therefore, not a recap: this is an attempt to explain my feelings, and the history and future that I see stretching out from this one event.

A lot of activist groups on Hampshire's campus experience a phenomenon called "Signer burn-out". This does not just mean that after years of

devoted working for various causes these poor students give their last full measure of devotion and then collapse: it means that after a couple of years, cynicism and bitterness tend to corrode even the shiniest new ambitions of change. For people who have spent a long time involved in this school's process and structures, it begins to feel like a constant process of facing the same disappointments over and over.

The Governance Task Force, whose role it is to review and revise the way that Hampshire makes decisions and the distribution of power in our systems, only has power to make recommendations to the President and was appointed by the same administrators that set this Admissions decision in motion ("Governance Task Force", Hampedia).

When students interrupted an Executive Cabinet meeting this March to protest budgetary decisions being made without input or notification, they demanded "a concrete and meaningful role for students, staff and faculty in the process of crafting both long-term and immediate budget priorities, with information provided in a timely and complete manner. All members of the Hampshire community must have the opportunity to participate in these decision-making processes" ("Re-Rad Current Initiatives", Hampedia). They were assured that in the future, the administration would work with these goals in mind. The fact that the Admissions decision was at that point being prepared to go to contractors is funny, in a painful sort of way.

In April, it was announced that the Strategic Planning Committee, whose role is to "guide the community in the work of clarifying and aligning the institution's values, mission, vision, objectives, goals, and resources for approximately the next five years" (Ralph Hexter, Memorandum in Daily Digest, April 27 2010), had been appointed privately by President Hexter some undisclosed amount of time previously. This committee once again, "will serve as an advisory committee to me [President Hexter]" (Hexter 2010).

One or two incidents make a misunderstanding; the myriad of incidents that I have seen in my three years here at Hampshire add up to something more. They add up to serious failures in communication, systemic problems in Hampshire organizational structures, ideological differences between upper administration and the Hampshire community, and a deliberate attempt by upper administration to consolidate power and disenfranchise students, staff and faculty.

I am not creating conspiracy theories. I am not overreacting. I am not distorting facts or pushing a personal agenda. This keeps happening. And, at the risk of stating the painfully obvious, it's not okay.

Three years ago, my friend asked whether her voice could still be heard. Hampshire, this Omen issue is our voices. Are you listening?

BY CLAIRE OBERHOLTZER

To Whom It May Concern:

We are disgusted and appalled at your recent behavior choosing to implement a \$300,000+ construction plan onto our campus, although sadly, we really are not surprised. The money we give towards tuition is money that should be contributed to many other areas of the Hampshire community that could benefit student, faculty, and staff life. These areas include, but are not limited to: the Arts Barn, the Library, the community organizations, student groups, financial aid, faculty and staff salaries, and the student-organized Re-Hamping project. The money that we are putting into this school should be going into opportunities that directly or indirectly benefit current and future enrolled students and your project does neither of these things. We support the Re-Hamping project that would lead to community-supported improvements and think that the money for your project should be contributed to the Re-Hamping plan. Our tuition money, \$50,000+ per year, is something that our families

and ourselves have been saving for the privilege of receiving a higher education. This money should not be taken lightly. Countless hours of work have been put into paying our tuition and the rest is covered by student loans, debts that will be with us far into the future. Why is it then that this hard-earned money is going towards plans that we were neither informed of nor support? Hampshire was built on collaboration and community input and you have made it very clear that these are values that seem to no longer be present in your decision-making. In addition, the fact that we are addressing you through a student publication instead of directly to you is discouraging and quite frankly, we don't have a face to put to your name. Please understand that we do not support your project and we will do all we can in order to prevent it from occurring.

BY HEATHER PATRICK AND
MAIA SANCHEZ-ACERO

One Student's Voice

The recent student lead publicizing of the plan to establish a satellite admissions office in Adele Simmons Hall has cauterized significant student, staff, and faculty action. The plan itself may seem mild, considering the large scale, horizontal resistance with which it is now being met. Office space within the building would be allotted to Admissions programming, the screening room would be devoted to Admissions screenings, and an additional parking lot would be paved behind ASH. What is it about this project that has inspired an often acquiescent student body to be so vocal?

To begin to imagine an answer to this question, let's look to the catalyst of the resistance, which could perhaps more appropriately be termed a revisioning, a vitalization, an articulation of a desire... This catalyst is of course the efforts of Arch-5, the small group of design and architecture students behind REHAMPING, who on their own initiative decided to provide the administration with a free (\$0) design to fill the most consistently criticized absence on this campus, that is to say, a Student Cen-

ter. More over, the Student Center that Arch-5 is proposing already exists. It is the library complex, with a few key renovations which would convert the labyrinthine, dungeon-esque building into a living, breathing, well lit, community friendly, birth canal for the ideas and movements that could be coming out of this school every other second.

In the midst of their design process, Arch-5 unearthed a series of “professional” designs for buildings in this school, all of which share three key differences from the REHAMPING effort. These are:

1. They are funded.
2. They display a lack of concern for the needs and desires of the people who make up Hampshire College [one of these designs included the placing of a glass encased Bible in the main entryway to the library]

3. NO STUDENT STAFF OR FACULTY WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE DESIGNS KNOW ABOUT THEM

3. The ASH/Admissions design is essentially the result of the efforts of Steve Weisler, Dean of Admissions. Weisler has been taking his desire for a new office on the road; prior to cooking up the ASH plan he spoke with the Faculty in both NS (Cole) and SS (FPH) about appropriating some of their space for his project. Both NS and SS unequivocally denied him. Neil Stillings, of CS, approached Weisler at a personal level and offered him space in ASH, and upon making its way as far as a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, a professional designer was hired and the plan was put into action. This is September. Admissions staff and student employees take an interest in what's going on, and ask Weisler for information, with no luck. Seven months later, an Admissions employee learns from the IT Department that there is a plan to move Admissions to ASH. We know now that not even the full Board of Trustees was aware of this project. None of the other Deans of Faculty knew, no one in admissions knew, and **THE STUDENT BODY WAS LEFT OUT ENTIRELY.**

And this brings us to the ASH/Admissions plan. Lets address this plan in order according to the above points:

1. Thus far, the design for the Admissions office in ASH has cost us \$50,000. In total, construction of the offices alone would cost \$350,000 – out of the approximately 1 million dollars allotted to grounds projects each summer – and this does not include the parking lot. This is approximately the equivalent of 8-10 Physical Plant staff positions.

2. The motivating factor behind this design is supposedly the Admissions Tour. As this plan would have it, the tour would begin and end in ASH, giving it all and all a more institutional feel, and keeping prospective students far from the Farm center. As the 10 tour leaders who attended the REHAMPING talk Friday will tell you, the walk over the hill from the Admissions office is the key selling point of the tour, according to prospective students.

This shows us many things, the most obvious of which is that, as shareholders in the corporation that is Hampshire college, we as students staff and faculty cannot allow decisions about where this schools money is spent to be left in the hands of a corporately select few. There needs to be a system of community review for any and all major changes made in this school at an institutional level. Hampshire is a Private College, but are we willing to let ourselves be defined and captured by the systemic inequality which pervades and defines private institutions nationwide? Who is deciding who Hampshire College IS?

This is not merely about ASH/Admissions. This is about the ability for this institution to form itself in relation to its own ethics. As ACTION AWARENESS WEEK showed us, this school has a massive history of direct student action to influence this institution's relationship to the world in which it

lives, and to the community which lives within it. The successive Administrations of this school have a similarly sized history of failing to live up to their promises to the students staff and faculty. Today, the opportunity to establish an infrastructure of governance which can truly hold the Administrations of this school accountable is knocking at our door.

BY NATE JONES

During my first weeks at Hampshire, I was struck by how different the school was from what I had expected. As my first year passed, I was shocked by the volume of tangible and varied flaws that exist at Hampshire. Towards the end of my first semester, I began to give up on the idea that Hampshire was the place I belonged. There were many core values tied to freedom and personal engagement that I identified with that I simply did not see or experience. To me, the rehamping initiative carries meaning and power because it helps Hampshire grow into the ideals it claims through the expression of those ideals in action. Its means is also its end. Hampshire's cornerstones of its students' independence and creative initiative have been proven to me through the rehamping movement. It looks to unroot that which stops it from becoming what every Hampshire student expects in a way that could not manifest anywhere else.

BY LIBBY GOLDSTEIN

Thoughts for The Omen

The student presentation at last Friday's meeting on the rethinking of - space, walls, academic and social inter-connection and dialogues, community spirit, light, special spaces with good vibes, collaboration, security, profiling Div III's dynamically, rethought lay out of places to work, interact, link with the environment of the college - was beyond stunning. We hope EVERYONE on campus gets a chance to see it and savour the impressive and inspirational vision infused with passion for the College and its future students, the high levels of skill and knowledge, the modeling of consultation and collaborative critical and creative thought that

went into these rev(h)amping plans. It is seeing the deeply democratic initiatives and creative application of student energies that makes teaching and working here such a powerful experience for us all. Hampshire depends on this kind of care, energy and collaboration being vibrant on the campus - in every zone of work at the College, among and between all of us invested in the College's future. This is what the College thrives on, and we all must ensure that it is fostered, respected, welcomed - and enabled. And if it's not, then we share the responsibility to do something about it. It's the spirit of Non Satis Scire we all end up having invisibly tatooed inside us, by function of having opted to be HERE - not somewhere else. We feel deeply encouraged and grateful to be part of an institution where student community engagement surfaces, time and again, in such striking, responsibly applied and inspiringly challenging ways. May it all bear fruit.

Jill Lewis (School for Interdisciplinary Arts) and Myrna Breitbart (Critical Social Inquiry)

WHY WE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS:

We wish to express our full support for the courageous and creative student initiative, led by Re-Hamping, to halt the administration's unilateral decision to establish a satellite Admissions Office in ASH. Aside from the imposition such a move would place upon scarce academic space, and the questionable use of financial resources in the midst of tremendous economic uncertainty, the decision was made with complete disregard for any community-staff, faculty, student-input.

We are in the process of circulating this letter among the faculty for their signatures, and intend to submit it, with these signatures, to the administration on Wednesday.

SUBMITTED BY: CAROL BENGELSDORF
AND MARGERET CERULLO

Much has been said already about this ASH business, much that I probably don't need to repeat.

PERSONALLY, though...

I just think it's so interesting that the bureaucracy we've inherited--like corporations the world round, I tend to think--is so unaware of the consequences of its own behavior, even its 'raison d'être'. 'Decision-making', for this beast, is apparently understood as a painful process which is 'irreversible' once set in motion.

Once the great beast has lurched into action, it can't change course, even if it desperately wants to stop, like a sinking ship: meanwhile hapless community members run screaming when they finally sense the shadow of its huge, gangly feet blotting out the sun, about to crush them with the force of DECISION.

Or at least that's what they'd like us to do. They'd like to believe--as they have in all the struggles I've witnessed or participated in here, like Action Awareness Week and Divestment, or even ones I've seen outside of this campus--that we are an inarticulate, formless mass of quirky young bags of money, who jingle seductively with the sound of loose change when we open our mouths, who might very well run at the thought of this scary invisible Godzilla-thing we are fond of calling 'administration'. There might be--no, there is--some truth in that, sure. We'd be lying to ourselves if we didn't understand that this is a private institution and a corporation before all else.

But we also care, and we can also get organised. And that's the kicker. They will underestimate us to the last moment--maybe even after they've decided they've won--but I have a feeling they will be sorely disappointed (especially with that ghastly quote of Steve Wiesler's, my god...I think it'll be awhile before he lives that one down).

And the sad truth is that the left hand doesn't know what the right is doing. Inside of this thing

that I like to think of so apocalyptically (because it is apocalyptic on a few registers) there's people who've stopped pulling the levers and are calling out for help: staff and faculty who did not know this was coming and are, shall we say, "pissed."

And personally I see nothing wrong with being grandiose, because if we can't indulge in some political grandstanding at times like THIS, then I don't know what's up or down anymore!

BY ALEX CACHINERO-GORMAN



A view from the walk from admission. A truly Awful view.

-SUBMITTED BY AARON RICHMOND-HAVEL

There is a serious need to reevaluate the way in which projects at Hampshire College are pushed through the planning process. This student initiated petition comes in response to the lack of community participation with regards to different building projects that are currently in the planning stages. It is Rehamping's belief that the community members of this college should be considered both active stakeholders and participants in the planning process.

Please turn in after presentation or to Hampshire Mail Box #551

-As a member of the Hampshire College community, I, _____ believe in the need for active community participation in the campus planning process. Piecemeal design intervention should not be tolerated. Instead, a more holistic approach that considers the dynamic needs to the current and future students, faculty, and staff should be developed. Disclosure of design plans is not sufficient. A system must be developed that actively incorporates more voices into the design process. This system must not be developed behind closed doors.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-I request that full details of the Admissions/ Adele Simmons Hall project be disclosed to the Hampshire College community by Wednesday, May 5th, 2010. This includes programmatic details and a landscape plan. All information regarding the construction of a new parking lot must be disclosed as well.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-I request that the Admissions/ Adele Simmons Hall project be **vetoed** due to its lack of community participation and transparency and its failure to respond to the most immediate needs of the Hampshire Community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-I request that the Admissions/ Adele Simmons Hall project be **halted** until more information about the project is disseminated to the whole Hampshire community. The project should not proceed until an all-community discussion and vote takes place. A system for community input with regards to this project must be established.

At this open forum, I request the attendance of :

President: Ralph Hexter,
Vice President for Finance and Administation: Mark Spiro,
Dean of Enrollment and Assessment: Steve Weisler,
Director of Facilities and Grounds : Mark Cappello
Deans of the Schools

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-I request that the Library Computer Lab project be **halted** until more information about the project is disseminated to the whole Hampshire community. The project should not proceed until an all-community discussion and vote takes place. Community input with regards to this project must be established.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
